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Testimony of
Rosalyn Schoonmaker
Opposing Section 4 of House Bill 5016

Good Morning Chairpersons, Senator Toni Harp, Representative Toni Walker, and Committee Members.

My name is Rosalyn (Roz) Schoonmaker. I live and vote in Southbury, CT and _**have been a Connecticut Teachers Retirement Board Trustee for 35 years**_. I retired in 1991 and am 81 years of age. I appreciate the opportunity to address you today on House Bill 5016. I am strongly opposed to Section 4 of HB5016 regarding the repeal of 10-183t of the general statutes.

During my 35 years I have been witness to many changes to the Connecticut TRBs insurance and prescription plans which now cover nearly 20,000 teacher retirees. Under 10-183t of the general statutes the state subsidy of $110 is funded by the state of CT at 1/3, active teachers at 1/3 and retired teachers at 1/3. This subsidy is a lifeline for retired teachers who lack Social Security benefits.

The Governors budget change to a contribution by the state of only ¼ would have a devastating effect on many retired teachers by increasing their yearly output by as much as $350. "Should I buy the prescriptions I need, food, gasoline or oil to heat my home?" will be a life threatening question which many will have to ask! Personally, I do not write any checks for bills, etc. during the last week of any month because I fear they could bounce due to a lack of funds.

I find it unacceptable that the monies in question here are being used to help pay for a $7.6 million budget increase and not used to cover a deficit. Do we really need a New Britain - Hartford Busway built on the backs of CT retired teachers...the ONLY group funding HB5016.

CT retired teachers do not deserve to be punished in this manor! I urgently beseech you not to repeal 10-183t, of the general statutes in section 4 of HB5016, and to not harm CT retired teachers.

Thank you for your time on behalf of all CT retired teachers and the CT Teachers retirement Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalyn Schoonmaker